Exclusion of non-banking financial companies from Companies Act

853. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal from FICCI for exclusion of non-banking financial companies from the Companies Act;

(b) if so, when such request was received by Government; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Public limited companies not paying dividend during 2000-2001

854. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of public limited companies as on 31st March, 2001 in the country;

(b) the number and percentage of public limited companies that have in spite of earning profit not paid any dividend during 2000-2001; and

(c) the number of private limited companies which suffered loss during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) the total number of public limited companies in the country as on 31.3.2001 was 76,260.

(b) and (c) Such information is not maintained.

Purchase of cranes for Chennai Port Trust

855. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether three massive cranes costing Rs.27.10 crore were bought for Chennai Port Trust but they are lying idle;

(b) whether these cranes cannot be put to use; and

(c) if so, whether an enquiry has been ordered to probe reasons for purchase of these high cost cranes and fix responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Chennai Port Trust replaced old cranes by purchasing three new cranes to facilitate import of finished fertilizers and fertilizer raw materials and installed them at Jawahar Dock Berths, where coal is also handled. The cranes are not being utilized since finished fertilizer, raw fertilizer, foodgrains, cut stones, quartz etc., require clean environment. The coal handling operations are to be transferred to Ennore Port from Jawahar Dock Berths.

Payment of loan by JNPT and CPT

856. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and Cochin Port Trust are in heavy debt for quite long from Government and World Bank;

(b) if so, the amount outstanding as on 31st March, 2001 from each body separately alongwith penal interest;

(c) the steps being taken to repay these loans by Port Trusts; and

(d) if not, whether these loans would be waived off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) An amount of Rs.3,53,22,16,340/- is outstanding on the part of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust towards repayment of the loans taken from the Government of India. An amount of Rs. 8,77,15,34,935/- is outstanding on the part of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust towards repayment of the World Bank loans and interest thereon. An amount of Rs.6,40,93,77,712/- is outstanding on the part of Cochin Port Trust towards repayment of the loans taken from the Government of India alongwith interest and penal interest thereon.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has been regularly repaying the instalments on account of the loan taken from the Government of India alongwith interest thereon. In the context of a request made by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for their capital restructuring, the Port Trust has deferred repayment of the WORLD BANK loans and interest thereon. Cochin Port Trust has withheld repayment of the instalments on account of the loans taken by them from the Government of India as also the interest due and penal interest thereon pending a decision on their request for restructuring their loan repayment schedule.